

# POR

A book was writ, called Tetrachordon,  
The subject new: it walk'd the town a while,  
Numb'ring good intellects; now seldom por'd on. *Milton.*  
The eye grows weary, with poring perpetually on the same thing. *Dryden's Dufresnoy.*  
Let him with pedants hunt for praise in books,  
Pore out his life amongst the lazy gownmen,  
Grow old and vainly proud in fancy'd knowledge. *Rowe.*  
With sharpen'd sight pale antiquaries pore,  
Th' inscription value, but the rust adore. *Pope.*  
He hath been poring so long upon Fox's Martyrs, that he  
imagines himself living in the reign of queen Mary. *Swift.*  
The design is to avoid the imputation of pedantry, to shew  
that they understand men and manners, and have not been  
poring upon old unfashionable books. *Swift.*  
POREBLIND. *adj.* [commonly spoken and written *partblind*.] Near-  
sighted; shortighted.  
Poreblind men see best in the dimmer light, and likewise  
have their sight stronger near at hand, than those that are not  
poreblind, and can read and write smaller letters; for that the  
spirits visual in those that are poreblind are thinner and rarer  
than in others, and therefore the greater light disperseth  
them. *Bacon's Natural History.*  
PORINESS. *n. f.* [from *por*.] Fullness of pores.  
I took off the dressings, and set the trepan above the frac-  
tured bone, considering the poriness of the bone below. *Wifem.*  
PORISTICK method. *n. f.* [*ποριστικός*.] In mathematicks, is that  
which determines when, by what means, and how many differ-  
ent ways a problem may be solved. *DiD.*  
PORK. *n. f.* [*porc*, Fr. *porcus*, Lat.] Swines flesh unsalted.  
You are no good member of the commonwealth; for, in  
converting Jews to christians, you raise the price of pork.  
*Shakespeare's Merchant of Venice.*  
All flesh full of nourishment, as beef and pork, increaseth the  
matter of phlegm. *Flower on the Humours.*  
PORKER. *n. f.* [from *pork*.] A hog; a pig.  
Strait to the lodgments of his herd he runs,  
Where the fat porkers slept beneath the fun. *Pope.*  
PORKREATER. *n. f.* [*pork* and *eater*.] One who feeds on pork.  
This making of christians will raise the price of hogs; if  
we grow all to be porkers, we shall not shortly have a rather  
on the coals for money. *Shakespeare's Merchant of Venice.*  
PORKET. [from *pork*.] A young hog.  
A priest appears  
And off rings to the flaming altars bears;  
A porket, and a lamb that never suffer'd shears. *Dryden.*  
PORKLING. *n. f.* [from *pork*.] A young pig.  
A hovel  
Will serve thee in winter, moreover than that,  
To shut up thy porklings, thou meanest to fat. *Tupper.*  
POROSITY. *n. f.* [from *porous*.] Quality of having pores.  
This is a good experiment for the disclosure of the nature  
of colours; which of them require a finer porosity, and which  
a grosser. *Bacon's Natural History.*  
POROUS. *adj.* [*porous*, Fr. from *pore*.] Having small spiracles  
or passages.  
The rapid current, which through veins  
Of porous earth with kindly thirst updrawn,  
Rose a fresh fountain, and with many a rill  
Water'd the garden. *Milton's Par. Lost, b. iv.*  
Of light the greater part he took, and plac'd  
In the sun's orb, made porous to receive  
And drink the liquid light; firm to retain  
Her gather'd beams; great palace now of light. *Milton.*  
POROUSNESS. *n. f.* [from *porous*.] The quality of having  
pores.  
They will forcibly get into the porousness of it, and pass  
between part and part, and separate the parts of that thing  
one from another; as a knife doth a solid substance, by hav-  
ing its thinnest parts pressed into it. *Digby on Bodies.*  
PORPHYRE. *n. f.* [from *πορφύρα*; *porphyrites*, Lat. *porphyre*,  
*Porphyry*.] Fr.] Marble of a particular kind.  
I like best the porphyry, white or green marble, with a  
mullar or upper stone of the same. *Peasam on Drawing.*  
Consider the red and white colours in porphyry; hinder light  
but from striking on it, its colours vanish, and produce no  
such ideas in us; but upon the return of light, it produces  
these appearances again. *Locke.*  
PORPOISE. *n. f.* [*porc poisson*, Fr.] The sea-hog.  
PORPUS. *n. f.* [*porc poisson*, Fr.] The sea-hog.  
Amphibious animals link the terrestrial and aquatick to-  
gether; seals live at land and at sea, and porpoises have the  
warm blood and entrails of a hog. *Locke.*  
Parch'd with unextinguish'd thirst,  
Small beer I guzzle till I burst;  
And then I drag a bloated corpus  
Swell'd with a droply like a porpus. *Swift.*  
PORPACIOUS. *adj.* [*porpaccus*, Lat. *porrace*, Fr.] Greenish.  
If the lesser intestines be wounded, he will be troubled  
with porpaccus vomiting. *Wifeman's Surgery.*  
PORREIT. *n. f.* [*porrum*, Lat.] A scallion.  
It is not an easy problem to resolve why garlick, molys

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and porrets have white roots, deep green leaves and black  
seeds. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*  
PORRIDGE. *n. f.* [more properly *porrage*; *porrata*, low Latin,  
from *porrum*, a leek.] Food made by boiling meat in  
water; broth.  
I had as lief you should tell me of a mess of porridge. *Sho.*  
PORRIDGEPOT. *n. f.* [*porridge* and *pot*.] The pot in which  
meat is boiled for a family.  
PORRINGER. *n. f.* [from *porridge*.] 1. A vessel in which broth is eaten.  
A small wax candle put in a socket of brass, then set up-  
right in a porringer full of spirit of wine, then set both the  
candle and spirit of wine on fire, and you shall see the flame  
of the candle become four times bigger than otherwise, and  
appear globular. *Bacon's Nat. Hist.*  
A physician undertakes a woman with sore eyes, who  
dawbs 'em quite up with ointment, and, while she was in  
that pickle, carries off a porringer. *L'Estrange.*  
The porringers, that in a row  
Hung high, and made a glittering show,  
Were now but leathern buckets rang'd. *Swift.*  
2. It seems in *Shakespeare's* time to have been a word of con-  
tempt for a headrest; of which perhaps the first of these  
passages may show the reason.  
Here is the cap your worship did bespeak.  
—Why this was moulded on a porringer. *Shakespeare.*  
A haberdasher's wife of small wit rail'd upon me, till her  
pink'd porringer fell off her head. *Shakespeare, Henry VIII.*  
PORRECTION. *n. f.* [*porrectio*, Latin.] The act of reaching  
forth.  
PORT. *n. f.* [*port*, Fr. *portus*, Latin.] 1. A harbour; a safe station for ships.  
Her small gondelay her port did make,  
And that gay pair issuing on the shore,  
Disburden'd her. *Fairy Queen, b. ii.*  
I should be still  
Peering in maps for ports, and ways and roads. *Shakespeare.*  
The earl of Newcastle seized upon that town; when there  
was not one port town in England, that avowed their obe-  
dience to the king. *Clarendon, b. viii.*  
A weather beaten vessel holds  
Gladly the port. *Milton.*  
2. [*Porta*, Lat. *porce*, Sax. *porte*, Fr.] A gate.  
Shew all thy praises within the ports of the daughter of  
Sion. *Psalms ix. 14.*  
Descend, and open your uncharged ports. *Shakespeare.*  
He I accuse,  
The city ports by this hath entered. *Shakespeare, Coriolanus.*  
O polish'd perturbation! golden care!  
That keep'st the ports of slumber open wide  
To many a watchful night; sleep with it now!  
Yet not so found, and half so deeply sweet,  
As he, whose brow with homely biggen bound,  
Snores out the watch of night. *Shakespeare, Henry IV.*  
The mind of man hath two ports; the one always fre-  
quented by the entrance of manifold vanities; the other de-  
solate and overgrown with grass, by which enter our chari-  
table thoughts and divine contemplations. *Raleigh.*  
From their ivory port the cherubim  
Forth issu'd. *Milton.*  
3. The aperture in a ship, at which the gun is put out.  
At Portsmouth the Mary Rose, by a little way of the  
ship in casting about, her ports being within sixteen inches of  
the water, was overlet and lost. *Raleigh.*  
The linlocks touch, the pond'rous ball expires,  
The vigorous seaman every port hole plies.  
And adds his heart to every gun he fires. *Dryden.*  
4. [*Portie*, Fr.] Carriage; air; mien; manner; bearing;  
external appearance; demeanour.  
In that proud port, which her so goodly graceth,  
Whiles her fair face the rears up to the sky,  
And to the ground her eyelids low embraceth,  
Most goodly temperate ye may descry. *Spenser.*  
Think you much to pay two thousand crowns,  
And bear the name and port of gentleman?  
See Godfrey there in purple clad and gold,  
His stately port and princely look behold. *Paisfax.*  
Their port was more than human, as they stood;  
I took it for a fairy vision  
Of some gay creatures of the element,  
That in the colours of the rainbow live. *Milton.*  
A proud man is so far from making himself great by his  
haughty and contemptuous port, that he is usually punished  
with neglect for it. *Callier on Pride.*  
Now lay the line, and measure all thy court,  
By inward virtue, not external port;  
And find whom justly to prefer above  
The man on whom my judgment plac'd my love. *Dryden.*  
Thy plummy crest  
Nods horrible, with more terrific port  
Thou walk'st, and seem'st already in the fight. *Philips.*  
To PORT.

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To PORT. *v. a.* [*porto*, Lat. *porter*, Fr.] To carry in form.  
Th' angelick squadron bright  
Turn'd fiery red, sharpening in mooned horns  
Their phalanx, and began to hem him round  
With ported spears. *Milton's Par. Lost, b. iv.*  
PORTABLE. *adj.* [*portabilis*, Lat.] 1. Manageable by the hand.  
2. Such as may be born along with one.  
The pleasure of the religious man is an easy and portable  
pleasure, such an one as he carries about in his bosom, with-  
out alarming the eye or envy of the world. *South.*  
3. Such as is transported or carried from one place to another.  
Most other portable commodities decay quickly in their use;  
but money is by slower degrees removed from, or brought into  
the free commerce of any country, than the greatest part of  
other merchandize. *Locke.*  
4. Sufferable; supportable.  
How light and portable my pains seem now,  
When that which makes me bend, makes the king bow.  
*Shakespeare's King Lear.*  
All these are portable *Shakespeare, Macbeth.*  
With other graces weigh'd.  
PORTABLENESS. *n. f.* [from *portable*.] The quality of being  
portable.  
PORTAGE. *n. f.* [*portage*, Fr.] 1. The price of carriage.  
2. [From *port*.] Porthole.  
Lend the eye a terrible aspect;  
Let it pry through the portage of the head,  
Like the brass cannon. *Shakespeare's Henry V.*  
PORTAL. *n. f.* [*portail*, Fr. *po. tella*, Italian.] A gate; the  
arch under which the gate opens.  
King Richard doth appear,  
As doth the blushing discontented sun,  
From out the fiery portal of the east. *Shakespeare, Rich. II.*  
Though I should run  
To those disclosing portals of the sun;  
And walk his way, until his horses sleep  
Their fiery locks in the Iberian deep. *Sandys.*  
He through heav'n  
That open'd wide her blazing portals, led  
To God's eternal house direct the way.  
The flick for air before the portal gasp.  
The portal consists of a composite order unknown to the  
ancients. *Addison's Remarks on Italy.*  
PORTANCE. *n. f.* [from *porter*, Fr.] Air; mien; port; de-  
meanour.  
There stepped forth a goodly lady,  
That seem'd to be a woman of great worth,  
And by her stately portance born of heavenly birth. *F. Qu.*  
Your loves,  
Thinking upon his services, took from you  
The apprehension of his present portance,  
Which gibingly, ungravelly, he did fashion. *Shakespeare.*  
PORTASS. *n. f.* [sometimes called *portais*, and by *Chaucer* *port-  
bois*.] A breviary; a prayer book.  
In his hand his portesse still he bare,  
That much was worn, but therein little red;  
For of devotion he had little care. *Fairy Queen.*  
An old priest always read in his portais mumpimus domine  
for mumpimus; whereof when he was admonished, he said that  
he now had used mumpimus thirty years, and would not leave  
his old mumpimus for their new mumpimus. *Camden.*  
PORTCULLIS. *n. f.* [*portecullisse*, Fr. quasi *porta clausa*.] A  
PORTCLUSE. } fort of machine like a harrow, hung over the  
gates of a city, to be let down to keep out an enemy.  
Over it a fair portcullis hung,  
Which to the gate directly did incline,  
With comely compass and compacture strong,  
Neither unseemly short, nor yet exceeding long. *F. Qu.*  
The cannon against St. Stephen's gate executed so well,  
that the portcullis and gate were broken, and entry opened  
into the city. *Hayward.*  
She the huge portcullis high up drew,  
Which but herself, not all the Stygian pow'rs  
Cou'd once have mov'd. *Milton.*  
Pyrrhus comes, neither men nor walls  
His force sustain, the torn portcullis falls.  
The upper eyelid claps down, and is as good a fence as a  
portcullis against the importunity of the enemy. *More.*  
The gates are opened, the portcullis drawn;  
And deluges of armies from the town  
Come pouring in. *Dryden.*  
To PORTCULLIS. *v. a.* [from the noun.] To bar; to shut  
up.  
Within my mouth you have engoal'd my tongue,  
Doubly portcullis'd with my teeth and lips. *Shakespeare.*  
PORTED. *adj.* [*porter*, Fr.] Borne in a certain or regular  
order.  
They hem him round with ported spears. *Milton.*  
To PORTEND. *v. a.* [*portend*, Lat.] To foretoken; to  
foreshow as omens.

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As many as remained, he earnestly exhorteth to prevent  
portended calamities. *Hobbes.*  
Doth this churlish superscription  
Portend some alteration in good will? *Shakespeare.*  
A moist and a cool summer portendeth a hard winter. *Bacon.*  
True opener of mine eyes,  
Much better seems this vision, and more hope  
Of peaceful days portends, than those two past. *Milton.*  
True poets are the guardians of a state,  
And when they fail, portend approaching fate. *Roscommon.*  
The ruin of the state in the destruction of the church, is  
not only portended as its sign, but also inferred from it as its  
cause. *South's Sermons.*  
PORTENSION. *n. f.* [from *portend*.] The act of foretoking.  
Although the red comets do carry the portensions of Mars,  
the brightly white should be of the influence of Venus. *Brown.*  
PORTENT. *n. f.* [*portentum*, Lat.] Omen of ill; prodigy  
foretoking misery.  
O, what portents are these?  
Some heavy business hath my lord in hand,  
And I must know it. *Shakespeare's Henry IV.*  
My loss by dire portents the god foretold;  
Yon riven oak, the fairest of the green. *Dryden.*  
PORTENTOUS. *adj.* [*portentus*, Lat. from *portent*.] Mon-  
strous; prodigious; foretoking ill.  
They are portentous things  
Unto the climate, that they point at. *Shakespeare.*  
This portentous figure  
Comes armed through our watch to like the king  
That was. *Shakespeare, Hamlet.*  
Overlay  
With this portentous bridge the dark abyss. *Milton.*  
No beast of more portentous size  
In the Hercinian forest lies. *Roscommon.*  
Let us look upon them as so many prodigious exceptions  
from our common nature, as so many portentous animals, like  
the strange unnatural productions of Africa. *South.*  
Every unwonted meteor is portentous, and some divine  
prognostick. *Glanville.*  
The petticoat will shrink at your first coming to town; at  
least a touch of your pen will make it contract itself, and by  
that means oblige several who are terrified or astonished at this  
portentous novelty. *Addison's Spectator, N<sup>o</sup> 127.*  
PORTER. *n. f.* [*portier*, Fr. from *porta*, Lat. a gate.] 1. One that has the charge of the gate.  
Porter, remember what I give in charge,  
And, when you've so done, bring the keys to me. *Shakespeare.*  
Arm all my household presently, and charge  
The porter he let no man in till day. *Bonj. Johnson.*  
Nic. Frog demanded to be his porter, and his fishmonger,  
to keep the keys of his gates, and furnish the kitchen. *Arb.*  
2. One who waits at the door to receive messengers.  
A favorite porter with his master vie,  
Be brib'd as often, and as often lie. *Pope.*  
3. [*Porteur*, Fr. from *porta*, Lat. to carry.] One who carries  
burthens for hire.  
It is with kings sometimes as with porters, whose packs  
may jostle one against the other, yet remain good friends  
still. *Hovell.*  
By porter, who can tell, whether I mean a man who bears  
burthens, or a servant who waits at a gate? *Watts.*  
PORTERAGE. *n. f.* [from *porter*.] Money paid for carriage.  
PORTESSE. *n. f.* A breviary. See PORTASS.  
PORTGLAVE. *n. f.* [*porter* and *glave*, Fr. and Erse.] A sword  
bearer. *Ainsworth.*  
PORTGRAVE. } *n. f.* [*porta*, Lat. and *grave*, Teut. a keeper.]  
PORTEREVE. } The keeper of a gate. Obsolete.  
PORTICO. *n. f.* [*porticus*, Lat. *portico*, Italian; *portique*, Fr.]  
A covered walk; a piazza.  
The rich their wealth bestow  
On some expensive airy portico;  
Where safe from showers they may be born in state,  
And free from tempests for fair weather wait. *Dryden.*  
PORTION. *n. f.* [*portion*, Fr. *portio*, Latin.] 1. A part.  
These are parts of his ways, but how little a portion is  
heard of him? *Job xxvi. 14.*  
Like favour find the Irish, with like fate  
Advanc'd to be a portion of our state. *Waller.*  
In battles won, fortune a part did claim,  
And soldiers have their portion in the fame. *Waller.*  
Those great portions or fragments fell into the abyss; some  
in one posture, and some in another. *Burnet.*  
Pirithous no small portion of the war  
Press'd on, and took his lance, *Dryden.*  
2. A part assigned; an allotment; a dividend.  
Here their pris'n ordain'd and portion set. *Milton.*  
Shou'd you no honey vow to taste,  
But what the master-bees have plac'd  
In compass of their cells, how small  
A portion to your share would fall? *Waller.*